

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-57 remain pending in the present application. No claims were amended and no claims were canceled. Applicants continue to believe claims 1-57 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, the specification has been reviewed, and noted errors have been corrected. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the specification.

With respect to the Examiner's comment in numbered paragraph 29 on page 8 of the Office Action, Applicants confirm that the amended paragraph replacement made in the Response to Office Action filed August 16, 2004, was intended to replace the paragraph on Page 6, line 15 to Page 6, line 29. The Examiner is thanked for noting this error.

I. Comments regarding Examiner's Response to Arguments

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner has maintained the claim rejections made in the Office Action dated May 14, 2004. In responding to arguments made by Applicants in the Response to Office Action filed August 16, 2004, the Examiner states:

32. Regarding the argument that He does not disclose changing SSO passwords, He disclosed that at least one super user has SSO capability (See He Col. 8 Lines 47-49). If the super user was a SSO super user, then changing the passwords of the super user, as disclosed in col. 13 Paragraphs 3-7, must have involved changing SSO passwords, as specifically discussed below.

Final Office Action dated November 24, 2004, page 8.

The Examiner then specifically refers to col. 13, lines 27-28 of He as describing a first SSO password, and col. 13, lines 34-35 as disclosing changing the first SSO password to a new SSO password. Applicants respectfully disagree. He, in col. 13, lines 26-35 states:

At this point, the process continues when a message containing <Super-User Log-on Identifier, Present Password, New Password> for the NE along with <NE, User Log-on Identifier, Present Password> for the user account is sent 262 to the secure terminal server 24 that serves the NE. The secure terminal server 24 invokes a local procedure 263 that performs the log-in sequence of the NE 20, logs in as a super user, creates or resets the user account in the NE 20 changes the super user password to a new one using the data provided in the message.

The above recitation only discusses changing a super user password, and does not disclose or relate to changing an SSO password. Col. 13, Paragraphs 3-7 of He generally relate to the precondition that a user account is being created or modified, and that access to an NE (Network Element) is defined and granted to a user with SSO capability. The paragraphs do not relate to changing an SSO password. The reference only discloses changing an NE password or a super user password, which, as described in Col. 11 Lines 3-11 of He, is a separate identifier that supports the implementation of SSO and assists in setting up and changing user passwords in the NE. He does not disclose "in response to receiving a change instruction identifying a first single sign-on password, changing the first single sign-on password to create a second single sign-on password" as recited, for example, in independent claim 1, and, therefore, cannot anticipate the claims.

He also does not disclose the step of "modifying the target password in a user selected manner to match the second single sign-on password to create a modified target password" as recited in claim 1. Specifically, since He does not disclose changing a first SSO password to a second SSO password; the reference also does not disclose modifying a target password in a user selected manner to match the second SSO password to create a modified target password. Only the present application contains such a disclosure.

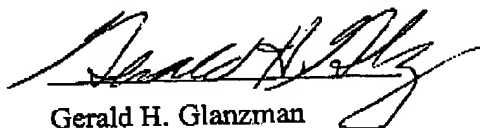
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that claims 1-57 patentably distinguish over the cited art and that the subject application is now in condition for allowance. It is, accordingly, respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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